

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A method of enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with an operation
2 in a meta directory server, said operation requiring communication with at least two data
3 sources, said method comprising:

4 providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring
5 communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks
6 containing an extension point;

7 receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said extension
8 point; and

9 executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of
10 said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are provided by a
2 designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is different from
3 said user.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said custom task contains an another
2 extension point, said method further comprises receiving from said user data indicating an
3 another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during
4 execution of said custom task.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of said plurality

of built-in tasks;

displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of built-in tasks;

displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and

enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point, and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling said user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom task is executed in a synchronous manner.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling said user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom task is executed in a asynchronous manner.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein said operation comprises either a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of said two data sources comprises a relational database.

9. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an utility to indicate that a

2 specific one of said extension points is reached.

1 10. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an utility in each of said
2 plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility indicates extension points
3 available in a corresponding task.

1 11. A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 causing a meta directory server to enable a user to customize a work flow associated with an
3 operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, wherein
4 execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained
5 in said meta directory server causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:
6 providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring
7 communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks
8 containing an extension point;
9 receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said extension
10 point; and
11 executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of
12 said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1 12. The meta directory server of claim 11, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are
2 provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is
3 different from said user.

1 13. The meta directory server of claim 11, wherein said custom task contains an
2 another extension point, further comprises receiving from said user data indicating an another
3 custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during execution
4 of said custom task.

1 14. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising:
2 determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of said plurality
3 of built-in tasks;
4 displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one
5 of said plurality of built-in tasks;
6 displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and
7 enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point,
8 and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1 15. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising enabling said user to
2 specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom task is
3 executed in a synchronous manner.

1 16. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising enabling said user to
2 specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom task is
3 executed in a asynchronous manner.

1 17. The meta directory server of claim 13, wherein said operation comprises either

2 a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in
3 tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1 18. The meta directory server of claim 17, wherein at least one of said two data
2 sources comprises a relational database.

1 19. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising providing an utility to
2 indicate that a specific one of said extension points is reached.

1 20. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising providing an utility in
2 each of said plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility indicates
3 extension points available in a corresponding task.

1 21. A meta directory server enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with
2 an operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, said
3 meta directory server comprising:

4 means for providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring
5 communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks
6 containing an extension point;

7 means for receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said
8 extension point; and

9 means for executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during
10 execution of said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1 22. The meta directory server of claim 21, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are
2 provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is
3 different from said user.

1 23. The meta directory server of claim 21, wherein said custom task contains an
2 another extension point, further comprises means for receiving from said user data indicating
3 an another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during
4 execution of said custom task.

1 24. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising:
2 means for determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of
3 said plurality of built-in tasks;
4 means for displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a
5 corresponding one of said plurality of built-in tasks;
6 means for displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and
7 means for enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said
8 extension point, and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1 25. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising means for enabling said
2 user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom
3 task is executed in a synchronous manner.

1 26. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising means for enabling said
2 user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom
3 task is executed in a asynchronous manner.

1 27. The meta directory server of claim 23, wherein said operation comprises either
2 a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in
3 tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1 28. The meta directory server of claim 27, wherein at least one of said two data
2 sources comprises a relational database.

1 29. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising an utility means to
2 indicate that a specific one of said extension points is reached.

1 30. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising an utility means in each
2 of said plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility means indicates
3 extension points available in a corresponding task.

1 31. A meta directory server enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with
2 an operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, said
3 meta directory server comprising:

4 a task registry block storing data related to a plurality of built-in tasks to implement
5 said operation requiring communication with said two data sources, at least one of said

6 plurality of built-in tasks containing an extension point;

7 a user interface module receiving from said user, data indicating a custom task
8 associated with said extension point; and

9 work-flow manager module for executing said custom task when said extension point
10 is reached during execution of said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1 32. The meta directory server of claim 31, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are
2 provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is
3 different from said user.

1 33. The meta directory server of claim 31, wherein said custom task contains an
2 another extension point, wherein said user interface further receives data indicating an
3 another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during
4 execution of said custom task.

1 34. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface modules
2 displays each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one of said
3 plurality of built-in tasks, and enables said user to specify said custom task associated with
4 said extension point and said another custom task associated with said another extension
5 point.

1 35. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface enables said
2 user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom

3 task is executed in a synchronous manner.

1 36. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface enables said
2 user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom
3 task is executed in a asynchronous manner.